

July 29, 1968



Mr. Hubert C. Lambert
State Engineer of Utah
State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Sir:

Re Milford Area

At the hearing on the petition of certain water users in Milford Valley for an order closing late priority wells, an oral argument was made regarding the law and the facts. It was contended by Mr. Sam Cline, attorney for those opposing the petition, that the petitioners were, themselves, instrumental in causing the lowering of the water table because they habitually made excessive use and waste of water and that those opposing the petition, as shown by the water commissioner's reports, were using less than the allotted quantity of water.

Following the meeting, the writer discussed with the water commissioners two questions relating to the metering of water: (1) Whether the meters accurately measured the water, and (2) Whether the wells of water users were equipped with meters and if so equipped, the meters were properly working. The water commissioners agreed to check the yield of certain wells as shown by these meters and as shown by actual measurement. On July 10, 1968, Mr. Strong in the presence of Mr. Kenley Taylor and Oren T. Puffer measured the Puffer wells and the George Smith well and the Taylor well with the following results:

Puffer

#3 Well - Time 43.5 Sec. = 1.00 CFS (Meter)
Wier 2' GH = .22 = 0.672 CFS (Wier)

#2 Well - Time 38 Sec. = 1.15 CFS (Meter)
Wier 2' GH = .29 = 1.01 CFS (Wier)

George Smith - (Narvaez)

Well - Time 65 Sec. = 0.67 CFS (Meter)
Wier 2' GH = .19 = 0.54 CFS

Mr. Hubert C. Lambert
Page 2
July 29, 1968

Taylor

Well - Time 53.5 Sec. = 0.85 CFS (Meter)
Wier 2' GH = .25 = 0.811 CFS (Wier)

It will be noted that in every case the meter exaggerates the actual yield of the well.

On June 22, June 30, July 7, and July 14 personal observations were made by the persons named in the columns under the dates to determine whether meters were installed on some 27 of the wells and if so whether they were working on the days indicated. The results of the examinations appear on the attached tabulation. It is apparent from the attached tabulation and data that arguments based only on meter readings are unreliable and misleading.

It will be recalled that at the hearing on June 20 numerous persons testified under oath as to their actual experience with respect to the dropping of the water table, the decrease in pressure and the diminishing supply of water during each irrigation season. We reiterate that the continued administration of water in Milford Valley as it has been administered in the past will destroy the Milford Valley farming community and particularly the small farmers whose rights are jeopardized by withdrawals of water in large quantities by those having late priorities. I am submitting for your information the substance of a conversation between Oren Puffer and Lloyd Mayer on the Puffer farm on or about July 11, 1968:

Mayer - "Why Puffer are you not willing to go along with Coy Williams, Jones and Tolley and drop this suit?

Puffer - "I have a water right here on this farm and I will not give it away.

Mayer - "If you are going to stay in the farming business you are going to do the same as we (the Mayers) are doing. We are going to at least 400 feet. If you can't you can quit.

Puffer - "I'll not quit as long as I have a water right.

Mr. Hubert C. Lambert
Page 3
July 29, 1968

Mayer - "Progress we have made here in the Valley is something to consider. Do you think the State Engineer is going to shut down a \$200,000.00 outfit for a small \$1,000.00 to \$15,000.00 setup?

Puffer - "Yes, as long as we have these prior rights.

Mayer - "Then you are just a damn fool."

The attitude of the late priority users and the disastrous effects of present administration without regard to the priority of the respective rights could not be better shown than by the above conversation.

We respectfully submit that the State Engineer should take action in accordance with the petition and as provided by the laws of the State of Utah referred to and discussed at length at the hearing on June 20, 1968.

Respectfully,

E. J. SKEEN

EJS:nlb

Enclosure

Milford Valley
Wells Not working
or Impaired

Date Checked
By

Gene & Hays
Mayer Bros

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

J.H. Valine
Eda Vantassell
Naurse
Don Sly
R. Marshall
W. Bride
Tonn
Gjapson
R. Marshall
Hyllbrand
Rimpac
Green Diamond
Wardley
S.C. Roberts
T. Bone Ranch
Russell Mayer
J. Mayer
Bill Dalton
Applegate
Bill Stewart
Donald Jones
S.W. Nichols
Claude Marshall
Fred Harris
Leon Pace
Leo Mayer
Eugene Davis

No Meter	Meter Not Working	June 22	June 30	July 7	July 14
✓ 1	✓ 1	✓			
✓ 1	✓ 1		2		
1	✓ 1				
1	✓ 1				
	✓ 1				
	0 2				
	0 1				
	0 1				
	0 1				
1	0 1				
	0 1				
	✓ 3				
	0 1				
No Meter on pump 3	✓ on Res.				
	✓ 1				
1	0 0				
	0 1				
	0 1				
	0 1				
	0 1				
	0 1				
✓	✓ 2				
	0 1				
	0 1				

Fred Harris Green Puffer Naurse

Green Puffer - Naurse - Joe Puffer & S.W. Nichols

Green Puffer Naurse D. Van Slyke



Handwritten text: "Handwritten 11/1/68"